

# Identifying Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Richmond upon Thames

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## 2022 update

## Volume 1: Report

Produced for the

**London Borough of Richmond upon Thames**

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72 Sonning Gardens Hampton  
Middlesex  
TW12 3PN  
T – 020 8979 7810  
M – 07813 329396

E - [enquiries@salixecology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@salixecology.co.uk)

W – [www.salixecology.co.uk](http://www.salixecology.co.uk)

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## Executive summary

Salix Ecology was commissioned by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to identify new and review a selection of existing Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the borough. The evidence provided by the study will form part of the Evidence Base for the Council's emerging Local Plan.

The study included habitat surveys of 35 sites. The following Habitats of Principal Importance (GLA habitat name in brackets) were recorded during the 2022 survey: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (Native broadleaved woodland), Eutrophic standing waters (Standing water), Lowland dry acid grassland (Acid grassland), Native hedgerows and Traditional orchards (Orchard).

The following Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats were also recorded: Ancient and Veteran Trees, Broadleaved Woodland, Hedgerows, Lowland acid grassland and Neutral grassland. Acid grassland, Standing water and Woodland are also London Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats. A total of 1586 species records were made (385 individual species). Of these, ten were London Notable vascular plants (eight individual species) and 62 were non-native invasive plants (14 individual species).

Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation are those sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London. Additional expansion areas have been identified for the River Thames and Tidal Tributaries Site of Metropolitan Importance. These are land at Barn Elms Riverside and land at the Lensbury Club grounds.

Sites of Borough Importance have been recommended where they support at least one habitat of nature conservation value (which may include Habitats of Principal Importance) and/or a population of notable species. Four additional Sites of Borough Importance are recommended for designation in Richmond, one site is recommended for expansion and one for reduction in area.

- RiB14 The Copse, Holly Hedge Field and Ham Avenues – incorporate land at Greycourt School.
- RiB21 Orford House (St Michaels Convent) – remove private land and developed area
- American University – new site
- Kneller Hall – new site
- Oak Lane Cemetery – new site
- Hounslow Cemetery – new site

Sites of Local Importance may already be used for nature study or be run by management committees mainly composed of local people. Nine new sites are recommended for selection as Sites of Local Importance:

- Borough Cemetery
- Broom Road Recreation Ground
- Challenge Court open space
- Hampton Court School

- Jubilee Meadow (Heathfield Nature Park)
- Nursery Green, Linear Walk & Partridge Green
- School House Lane Orchard
- St Mary Magdalen, RC Churchyard, Mortlake
- St Mary the Virgin, Church Street, Twickenham

The following sites were surveyed but were not recommended for selection as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation:

- Carlisle Park
- Chertsey Road Meadow
- Isleworth Promenade, Middlesex bank of Thames
- Kneller Gardens
- Palewell Pitch & Putt
- Radnor Gardens
- Riverside Drive Open Space and Palm Centre triangle
- Sheen Common (part)
- South Circular triangle, Barnes
- St Mary Magdelene, Paradise Road, Richmond
- St Mary Parish Church, Hampton
- St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake High Street, Mortlake
- St Mary's, Church Road, Barnes
- Udney Hall Gardens

Reviews are pending for the following sites as access permission was not obtained: Royal Mid Surrey Golf Course, Trowlock Avenue riverside land, Teddington; Collis Primary School, Grotto Road Open Space, Ham Polo Club, Kew Riverside (Kew Biotherm Sewage Treatment Works), Riverside Drive Paddocks, St Mary's and Oldfield Road land, St Mary's University and Sunnyside Reservoir plot at NW corner.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Salix Ecology was commissioned by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to identify new and review a selection of existing Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the borough. The evidence provided by the review will form part of the Evidence Base for the Council's emerging Local Plan.
- 1.1.2 This report updates a review of SINCs undertaken in 2021. The evidence provided by the review will form part of the Evidence Base for the Council's emerging Local Plan (planned adoption is for Spring 2024).
- 1.1.3 This report is provided in 2 volumes. Volume 1 (this volume) provides the background to the project, methods, a summary of results, site analysis and recommendations and Volume 2 provides all supporting information including site survey forms, habitat maps, species lists and updated site citations.
- 1.1.4 The Open Space and Habitat Survey in Greater London survey methodology was employed for identifying SINCs and recommending an appropriate grade of designation. The survey methodology was adopted by the Mayor of London in the Biodiversity Strategy in 2002. It was originally developed in the mid-1980s by the Greater London Council for the first comprehensive survey of wildlife habitats in Greater London. Subsequently the methodology was refined and updated by the London Ecology Unit (LEU) and the Greater London Authority (GLA). The survey methodology was further modified in 2004 to take account of PPG17 open space typology.
- 1.1.5 A London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB) has been set up which offers guidance on the selection of SINCs. The LWSB ensures that a transparent and consistent approach is applied to the selection and approval of SINCs. It ensures that the designation of new SINCs, and changes to existing SINCs, comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), national guidance on the selection of sites, regional policy and regional guidance. The survey methodology employed and presentation of data in this report follows the guidance issued by the LWSB but is modified to allow for the more detailed mapping of habitats.

## 1.2 Policy context

- 1.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, 2021) states in Paragraph 174: 'The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)
  - recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland

- maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate
- minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures
- preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate’.

1.2.2 Paragraph 179 of the NPPF (2021) also states that: ‘To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation and
- promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity’.

1.2.3 Policy G6, Biodiversity and access to nature, of the London Plan (Mayor of London, 2021) states that:

A) ‘Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be protected.

B) Boroughs, in developing Development Plans should:

- use up-to-date information about the natural environment and the relevant procedures to identify SINCs and ecological corridors to identify coherent ecological networks
- identify areas of deficiency in access to nature (i.e. areas that are more than 1km walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough SINC) and seek opportunities to address them
- support the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats that sit outside the SINC network, and promote opportunities for enhancing them using Biodiversity Action Plans
- seek opportunities to create other habitats, or features such as artificial nest sites, that are of particular relevance and benefit in an urban context’

1.2.4 Policy LP 15 of the adopted interim plan of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames states that: ‘The Council will protect and enhance the borough’s biodiversity, in particular, but not exclusively, the sites designated for their biodiversity and nature conservation value, including the connectivity between habitats. Weighted priority in terms of their importance will be afforded to protected species and priority species

and habitats including National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Other Sites of Nature Importance<sup>1</sup> as set out in the Biodiversity Strategy for England, and the London and Richmond upon Thames Biodiversity Action Plans. This will be achieved by:

- protecting biodiversity in, and adjacent to, the borough's designated sites for biodiversity and nature conservation importance (including buffer zones), as well as other existing habitats and features of biodiversity value;
- supporting enhancements to biodiversity.....'

1.2.5 Paragraph 5.4.1 of the plan states that: 'Biodiversity is promoted through the designation of sites and areas (statutory and non-statutory), including links and corridors, that are of nature conservation and biodiversity value. The aim of this policy is to protect and enhance the biodiversity in, and adjacent to, the borough's designated sites as well as other non-designated existing habitats and features of biodiversity value. The borough's open land and rivers, including the Thames and its islands, the River Crane, Beverley Brook, Duke of Northumberland River, Longford River and Whitton Brook, including the river banks, are vital elements that support the borough's biodiversity. It is important that all these areas, and where possible green linkages between them, are protected.

1.2.6 Paragraph 5.4.2 states that 'The Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) sets out the Sites of Metropolitan, Borough and Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in the borough. The level of weight given to protected sites should be commensurate to their importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological and green infrastructure networks. The highest protection should be given to sites with existing or proposed international designations, (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation, SACs; Special Protection Areas, SPAs; Ramsar Sites) and national designations (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, SSSIs; National Nature Reserves, NNRs). Strong protection should be given to sites of metropolitan and borough-wide importance, and commensurate protection should be given to sites of local importance'

### 1.3 SINC in the London Borough of Richmond

1.3.1 A total of 55 sites are currently designated as SINC in Richmond upon Thames. These comprise 10 Sites of Metropolitan Importance, 22 Sites of Borough Importance and 23 Sites of Local Importance.

a) **Table 1** Sites of Metropolitan Importance

Site reference	Site name
M31	River Thames and tidal tributaries
M76	Crane Corridor

<sup>1</sup> 'Other Sites of Nature Importance' include all SINC as well as a number of other undesignated sites within the borough.

Site reference	Site name
M81	Hounslow Heath (1ha within Richmond)
M82	Richmond Park and associated areas
M83	Ham Lands
M84	Bushy Park and Home Park
M85	Stain Hill & Sunnyside Reservoirs
M86	Barnes Common
M87	London Wetland Centre
M154	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

b) **Table 2 Sites of Borough Importance<sup>2</sup>**

Old Site reference	New Site reference	Site name
RiBI01	RiB01	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course
RiBI02	RiB02	Lonsdale Road Reservoir Local Nature Reserve (LBRuT name: Leg 'o' Mutton Reservoir LNR)
RiBI03	RiB03	Hydes Field
RiBI04	RiB04	Duke of Northumberland's River north of Kneller Road
RiBI05	RiB05	Hampton Water Treatment Works
RiBII02	RiB06	Longford River in Richmond
RiBII03	RiB07	Fulwell and Twickenham Golf Courses
RiBII04	RiB08	Duke of Northumberland's River south of Kneller Road
RiBII05	RiB09	Strawberry Hill Golf Course
RiBII06	RiB10	Petersham Meadows
RiBII07	RiB11	Occupation Lane, Kew Railway Bridge
RiBII08	RiB12	Barn Elms Playing Fields
RiBII09	RiB13	Beverley Brook from Richmond Park to the River Thames
RiBII10	RiB14	The Copse, Holly Hedge Field and Ham Avenues
RiBII11	RiL30	Kew Meadow Path
RiBII12	RiB16	Petersham Lodge Wood and Ham House Fields

<sup>2</sup> Sites of Borough Importance grade I and grade II have now been merged into a single grade. Both old and new site references are given



Old Site reference	New Site reference	Site name
RiBII14	RiB17	Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve
RiBII15	RiB18	Hatherop Burning Ground (LBRuT name: Hatherop Conservation Area)
RiBII16	RiB19	Hounslow, Feltham and Whitton junctions
RiBII18	RiB20	River Crane at St Margaret's (Richmond side)
RiB21	RiB21	St Michael's Convent Garden (recommended in 2016)
RiB22	RiB22	St Margaret's Residential Grounds (recommended in 2016)

c) **Table 3:** Sites of Local Importance:

Site reference	Site name
RiL01	St James' Churchyard, Hampton
RiL02	Marble Hill Park and Orleans House Gardens
RiL03	Pensford Field
RiL05	Terrace Field and Terrace Garden
RiL06	East Sheen and Richmond Cemeteries and Pesthouse Common
RiL07	Hampton Court House Gardens
RiL08	Cassel Hospital
RiL09	Old Mortlake Burial Ground
RiL10	Twickenham Junction Rough
RiL11	Kew Pond and Kew Green
RiL12	Barnes Green Pond
RiL13	Ham Common West
RiL15	Churchyard of St Mary with St Alban, Teddington
RiL16	The Copse at Hampton Wick and Normansfield Hospital
RiL17	Twickenham Road Meadow, Old Deer Park
RiL18	Ormand Bank (LBRuT name: Beveree)
RiL19	North Sheen and Mortlake Cemeteries
RiL20	Hampton Cemetery
RiL21	Portlane Brook and Meadow

Site reference	Site name
RiL22	Twickenham Cemetery
RiL23	Hampton Common
RiL24	Teddington Cemetery
RiL25	Moor Mead Recreation Ground

1.3.2 A map showing the location of the borough's current SINC's is shown in figure 1 below.

1.3.3 The 2021 SINC review made the following recommendations:

**Table 4:** SINC status: Summary of recommendations from 2021 survey

Old ref.	New ref.	Name	Recommendations
M031	M031	River Thames & Tidal Tributaries	No change to status recommended. Expansion areas added
M076	M076	Crane Corridor	No change to status recommended. Expansion areas added
M082	M082	Richmond Park and associated areas	No Change to status. Expansion areas added
M083	M083	Ham Lands	No change to status recommended. Expansion areas added
M084	M084	Bushy Park and Home Park	No change to status recommended. Expansion areas added
M085/RiB05	M085	Hampton Water Treatment works and Reservoirs	Stain Hill and Sunnyside Reservoirs and Hampton Water Treatment works to be amalgamated. New name: Hampton Water Treatment Works and Reservoirs Site of Metropolitan Importance
M086	M086	Barnes Common	No change to status recommended. Expansion area added
M087	M087	London Wetland Centre	No change to status recommended pending survey results
M154	M154	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	No change to status recommended. Some areas excluded
MO81	MO81	Hounslow Heath (Richmond Section)	No change to status recommended.
RiBI01	RiB01	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club	No change to status pending survey

Old ref.	New ref.	Name	Recommendations
RiBI02	RiB02	Lonsdale Road Reservoir - Leg 'o' Mutton Reservoir LNR	No change to status recommended. Recommend change of name to Leg 'o' Mutton Reservoir LNR.
RiBI03	RiB03	Hydes Field	No change to status recommended.
RiBI04	RiB04	Duke of Northumberland's River, north of Kneller Road	No change to status recommended.
RiBII02	RiB06	Longford River in Richmond	No change to status recommended.
RiBII03	RiB07	Fulwell and Twickenham] Golf Courses	No change to status recommended.
RiBII04	RiB08	Duke of Northumberland's River, south of Kneller Road	No change to status recommended.
RiBII05	RiB09	Strawberry Hill Golf Course	No change to status recommended.
RiBII06	RiB10	Petersham Meadows	No change to status recommended
RiBII07	RiB11	Occupation Lane, Kew Railway Embankment & Snail Reserve	No change to status recommended. Expansion area added
RiBII08	RiB12	Barn Elms Playing Fields	No change to status recommended. Boundary changes to exclude some areas
RiBII09	RiB13	The Beverley Brook from Richmond Park to the Thames	No change in status recommended. Expansion areas added
RiBII10	RiB14	The Copse, Holly Hedge Field and Ham Avenues	No change to status recommended.
B7	RiB15	Whitton Railsides	Recommend designation as Site of Borough Importance
RiBII12	RiB16	Petersham Lodge Woods and Ham House Meadows	No change to status recommended. Expansion area added. Some areas to be excluded.
RiBII14	RiB17	Oak Avenue LNR	No change to status recommended. Proposed expansion area (horse paddocks) to be excluded i.e. remain unclassified
RiBII15	RiB18	Hatherop Burning Ground	No change to status recommended. Change of name recommended to Hatherop Conservation Area

Old ref.	New ref.	Name	Recommendations
RiB116	RiB19	Hounslow Feltham and Whitton Junctions	No change to status recommended
RiB118	RiB20	River Crane at St Margarets	No change to status recommended. Expansion area added to site.
RiB21	RiB21	St Michael's Convent Garden	No change to status pending survey
RiB22	RiB22	St Margaret's Residential Grounds	No change to status recommended.
RiL11	RiB23	Kew Pond and Kew Green	Recommend Upgrade to Site of Borough Importance
RiL21	RiB24	Portlane Brook & Meadow	Recommend Upgrade to Site of Borough Importance
RiL13	RiB25	Ham Common West	Recommend upgrade to Site of Borough Importance
RiL05	RiB26	Terrace Field & Terrace Gardens	Recommend upgrade to Site of Borough Importance
RiL08	RiB27	Cassel Hospital	Recommend upgrade to Site of Borough Importance
B5	RiB28	Trowlock Avenue riverside land, Teddington	Recommend designate as Site of Borough Importance
B6	RiB32	Udney Park Playing Fields, Teddington	Recommend designate as a Site of Borough Importance.
RiL10	RiB29	Twickenham Junction Rough	Recommend upgrade to Site of Borough Importance
RiL24	RiB30	Teddington Cemetery	Recommend upgrade to Site of Borough Importance
RiL22	RiB31	Twickenham Cemetery	Upgrade to Site of Borough Importance. Expansion area added to site.
RiL01	RiL01	St James's Churchyard, Hampton Hill	No change to status recommended.
RiL02	RiL02	Marble Hill Park and Orleans House Gardens	No change to status recommended.
RiL03	RiL03	Pensford Field	No change to status recommended. Boundary change to exclude tennis courts
RiL06	RiL06	East Sheen and Richmond Cemeteries and Pesthouse Common	No change to status recommended.
RiL07	RiL07	Hampton Court House School Grounds	No change to status pending survey

Old ref.	New ref.	Name	Recommendations
RiL09	RiL09	Old Mortlake Burial Ground	No change to status recommended.
RiL12	RiL12	Barnes Green and Pond	No change to status recommended. Amalgamate with Barnes Green. New name: Barnes Green and Pond Site of Local Importance.
RiL15	RiL15	Churchyard of St Mary with St Alban, Teddington	No change to status recommended.
RiL16	RiL16	Normansfield Hospital	No Change to status recommended. Change name to Langdon Park. Substantial reduction in SINC area due to development. Recommend that The Wilderness forms a separate site of Local Importance
RiL17	RiL17	Twickenham Road Meadow, Old Deer Park	No Change to status recommended. Expand to the north of site
RiL18	RiL18	Beveree Wildlife site	No change to status recommended. Formal adoption of name 'Beveree Wildlife site' recommended.
RiL19	RiL19	North Sheen (Fulham New) & Mortlake (Hammersmith New) Cemeteries	No change to status recommended. Expansion area added to site.
RiL20	RiL20	Hampton Cemetery	No change to status recommended.
RiL23	RiL23	Hampton Common	No change to status recommended.
RiL25	RiL25	Moormead Recreation Ground	No change to status recommended
B1	RiL26	Garrick's Lawn, Hampton	Publicly accessible part to west recommend as Site of Local Importance. Private area unclassified
B4	RiL27	Townmead allotments	Recommend designation as Site of Local Importance.
RiL16	RiL28	The Wilderness	Recommend designate as a stand-alone Site of Local Importance.
B3	RiL29	St Andrew's churchyard, Ham and environs	Recommend designate as Site of Local Importance.
RiBII11	RiL30	Kew Meadow Path	Recommend reclassify as a Site of Local Importance.
B2		The Manor House, Ham	Unclassified pending survey

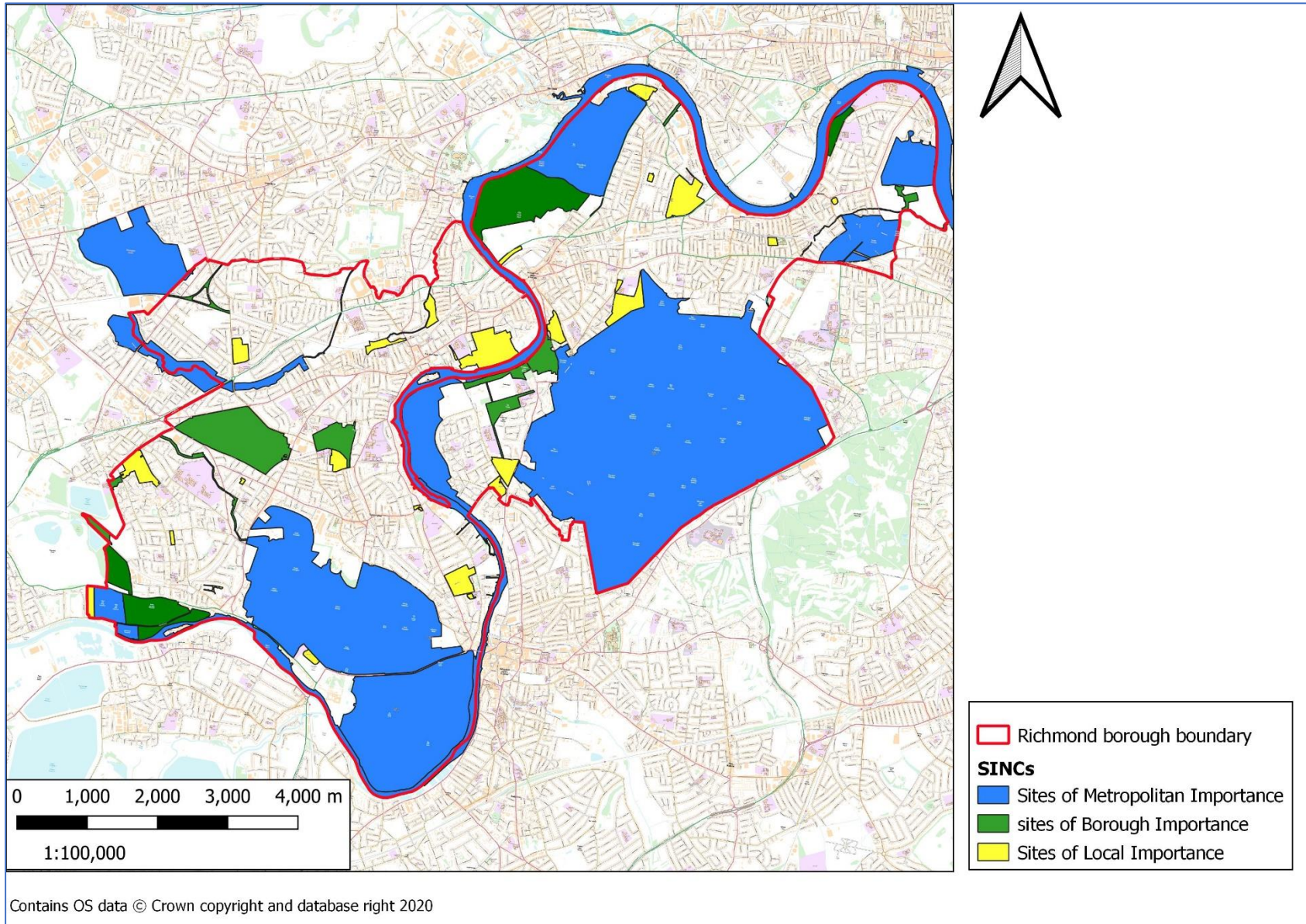


Figure 1: Existing Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) 2021

## **1.4 Purpose and objectives**

1.4.1 The Biodiversity Survey will form part of the borough's Evidence Base for its new Local Plan. It will provide:

- Accurate data for the evidence base for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Local Plan
- An assessment of candidate sites and expansion areas of existing sites worthy of SINC designation, recommend changes to those already designated, and provide written evidence to support these recommendations.

### **1.4.2 Objectives**

- Identification and classification of habitat types present and assessment of their extent and quality
- Mapping all habitats within selected existing SINC, proposed SINC expansion areas and candidate SINC
- Recording of frequent, characteristic and indicator vascular plant species recorded on site and their relative abundance
- Identification of plant species of particular note or rarity
- Making observations about current site conditions, management and how the site's biodiversity value could be enhanced.

## **1.5 Qualifications and experience of personnel**

### **Personnel**

1.5.1 The project manager was Paul Losse BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIEEM, Habitat surveyors were Paul Losse, Alan Scott BSc MSc MCIEEM CEnv and Denis J Vickers BSc (Hons), FLS, CBiol, MRSB, MCIEEM. Report author: Paul Losse. Mapping and GIS work: Paul Losse.

### **Experience:**

1.5.2 Paul Losse is an ecological consultant specialising in botanical and habitat survey and is a GIS specialist. Paul has undertaken phase one and NVC mapping for a wide variety of clients. He has carried out a range of habitat surveys including a number of phase one surveys using the GLA survey protocol. These include surveys of The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill in 2007, Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens in 2013, The Green Park & St James's Park in 2014 and a full survey of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham in 2016. Paul has also surveyed the majority of SINC in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

1.5.3 Denis J Vickers is one of the most experienced habitat surveyors in Greater London and particularly skilled in undertaking open space and habitat surveys using the Mayor of London's methodology: Denis carried out his first full London borough survey more than 30 years ago when he completed a survey of Wandsworth in 1992 for the London Ecology Unit. Between 2001 and 2007 Denis worked for the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) including a period as Habitat Survey Manager supervising and carrying out habitat surveys for the Greater London Authority. Whilst working in this capacity he surveyed six complete London boroughs. Denis has also completed a full survey of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham in 2016.

1.5.4 Alan Scott Founded Complete Ecology Ltd in 1996 and has been Director and Senior Ecologist from 1996 to the present day. Alan has over 25 years' experience in nature conservation throughout the UK. Worked for statutory agencies (Nature Conservancy Council), local authorities (Islington Council) and voluntary bodies (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Groundwork Hackney). Alan specialises in many areas of nature conservation management:

- Management plans for nature reserves and wildlife sites (written over 100).
- Community involvement nature conservation.
- Urban wildlife management.
- Practical nature reserve and land management for nature conservation.

## **1.6 Quality assurance**

1.6.1 Salix Ecology's policy is to maintain an effective and efficient quality assurance process planned and developed in conjunction with all associates, sub-contractors and clients, outlined in a series of policies and procedures which are intended to ensure high quality standards (available on request).

1.6.2 The assurance of quality is fundamental for all work undertaken by Salix Ecology and will be implemented by all associates and sub-contractors in their work.



## **2 Methods**

### **2.1 Desktop study**

2.1.1 A desktop study was carried out and the following data sourced and reviewed in preparation for the habitat survey and SINC review:

- georeferenced aerial photographs;
- georeferenced Ordnance survey Master Map;
- records of protected and notable species from the last ten years provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL);
- details of site ownership;
- Ecology Handbook 21: Nature Conservation in Richmond upon Thames (London Ecology Unit, 1993);

### **2.2 Access**

2.2.1 Where applicable, access to each site was arranged in advance of each site visit. Where there was no open access provision the Council was approached to attempt to arrange access.

### **2.3 Open space and habitat survey for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames**

2.3.1 Table 5 below shows sites selected for survey and figure 2 shows the location of both existing and candidate sites.

**Table 5: Sites selected for survey**

**a) Sites of Metropolitan Importance**

Site reference	Site name	Comments
<b>M082</b>	Petersham Common	

**b) Sites of borough Importance:**

Site reference	Site name	Comments
<b>RiB21</b>	Orford House	Previously St Michaels Convent
<b>RiB01</b>	Royal Mid Surrey Golf Course	
<b>RiB28</b>	Trowlock Avenue riverside land, Teddington	

**c) Candidate sites**

Site name	Comments
Barn Elms Riverside	(Sports Centre Field by river only)
Lensbury Club grounds	
Petersham Common	
American University	
Grey Court School grounds & sports field	
Kneller Hall	Check the playing pitches
Oak Lane Cemetery, Oak Lane, Twickenham	
Borough Cemetery, Powdermill lane	
Broom Road Recreation Ground	
Challenge Court open space, Craneford	
Hampton Court School	

<b>Site name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Jubilee Meadow	Previously Heathfield Nature Park
Hounslow Cemetery, Hanworth road, Hounslow	
Nursery Green, Linear Walk & Partridge Green	
Orleans Gardens	
School House Lane Orchard	
St Mary Magdalen, RC Churchyard, Mortlake	
St Mary Magdelene, Paradise Road, Richmond	
St Mary, Church Street, Twickenham	
Cambridge and Warren Gardens East Twickenham adj R Thames	
Carlisle Park	
Chertsey Road Meadow	
Collis Primary School	
Grotto Road Open Space	
Ham Polo Club	
Isleworth Promenade, Middlesex bank of Thames	
Kew Riverside (Kew Biotherm Sewage Treatment Works)	
Kneller Gardens	
Palewell Pitch & Putt	
Radnor Gardens	
Riverside Drive Open Space and Palm Centre triangle	
Riverside Drive Paddocks	
Sheen Common (part)	
South Circular triangle, Barnes	
St Mary Parish Church, Hampton	
St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake High Street, Mortlake	
St Mary's and Oldfield Road land	

Site name	Comments
St Mary's University	
St Mary's, Church Road, Barnes	
Sunnyside Reservoir plot at NW corner	
Udney Hall Gardens	

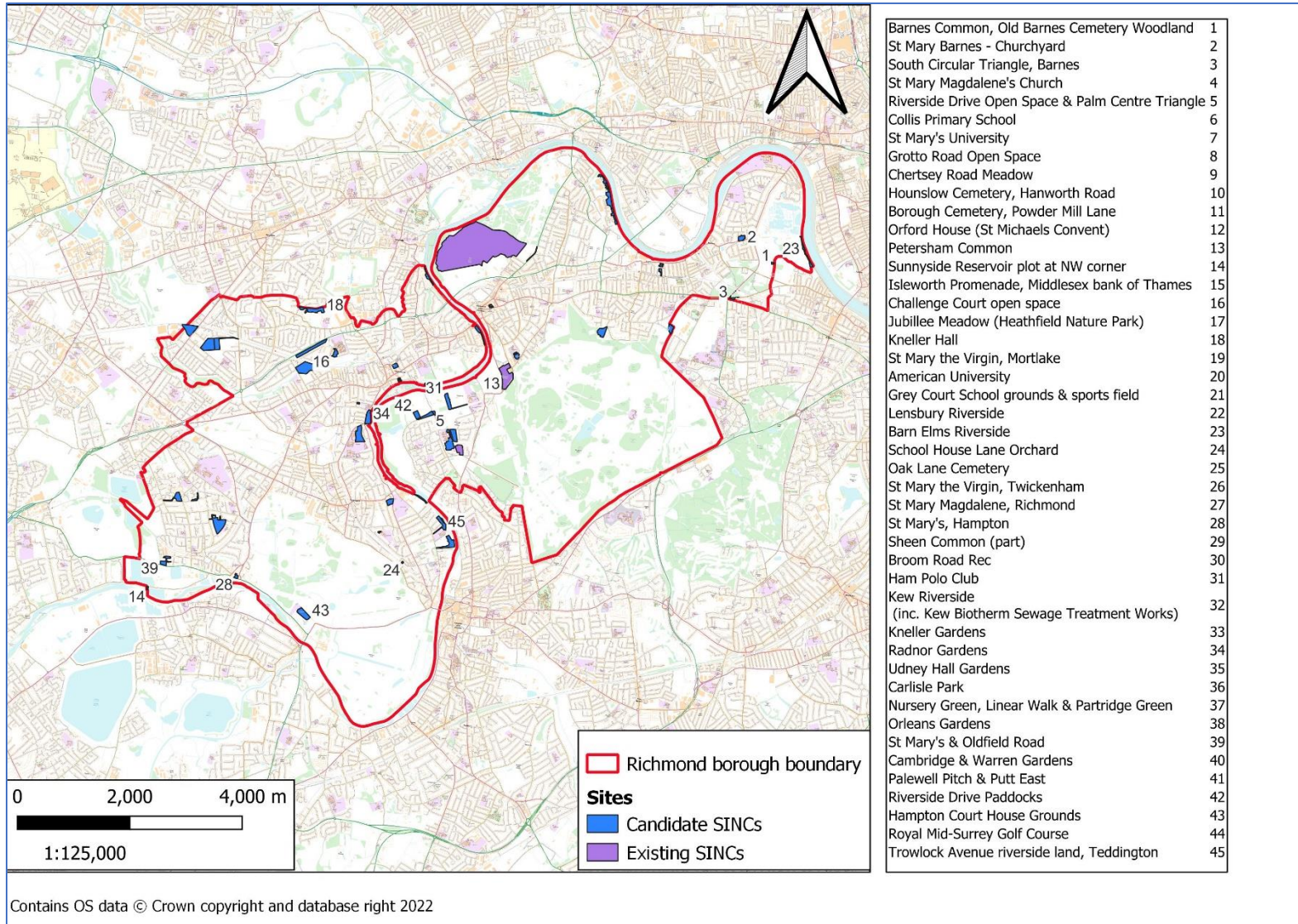


Figure 2: Candidate sites

2.3.2 Each site and composite parcel selected for survey was visited over the survey period from late May to early September and a habitat survey carried out. The survey followed the standard Phase 1 survey methodology (JNCC 2010) as modified by the Open Space and Habitat Survey for Greater London, revised survey specification (Mayor of London, 2004) with the following variations:

- Habitats were mapped in addition to parcels
- All site access points were mapped with points and the 10-figure grid reference noted
- A minimum mapping unit (MMU) of 25m<sup>2</sup> or 5m width was used. Habitats larger than these dimensions were mapped using polygons. Any smaller habitats were mapped using points or lines. Hedgerows were mapped as lines as, by definition, they are below the MMU of 5m width
- Field mapping was over aerial photography to ensure accuracy. Where features could not be easily discerned using aerial photographs, or where these were clearly out of date, a handheld GPS unit was used to measure habitat location and extent.
- Lines of trees were mapped as a line of points (if less than the MMU width). The points do not represent individual trees
- Scattered trees were mapped using points or polygons, depending on extent and density. The points do not indicate the exact location of trees but are indicative only
- Dominant, characteristic, habitat indicator and non-native invasive species were recorded together with an assessment of their abundance using the DAFOR scale (a subjective assessment where D=dominant, A=Abundant, F=frequent, O=occasional, R=rare). Scientific names follow Stace (2019). A species recording form with the 500 most frequent GiGL records for the London area has been developed to allow efficient recording.

2.3.3 The location of the following species was target noted with a 10-figure grid reference:

- Species protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Nationally rare species
- Nationally scarce species
- Red data book species
- Species of Principal Importance in England. These species were identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (Defra 2012)
- Notable species for the Greater London area. Notable is defined as species which were recorded from 15% or fewer of the 400 two-kilometre recording squares (tetrads) in Greater London in the Flora of the London Area (Burton 1983)
- Trees which are notable because of size or likely antiquity

- Non-native invasive species listed under schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 2.3.4 In accordance with best recording practice, each target note for a species included the name of surveyor, scientific name, grid reference and date.
- 2.3.5 Species listed as species of concern in London (London Invasive Species Initiative, 2013) were recorded to at least parcel level.
- 2.3.6 If a site/habitat was judged to be of particular interest for a taxonomic group (e.g. birds, reptiles, invertebrates and lichens) this was noted.

## **2.4 Mapping**

- 2.4.1 The QGIS GIS system was used to create all maps. Digitisation was over OS MasterMap and aerial photography to ensure accuracy.
- 2.4.2 The maps included site, SINC, parcel boundaries, habitats, target notes and access points. Where there were new or changed boundaries, these were clearly highlighted.
- 2.4.3 Where there were two adjacent polygons, common boundaries were snapped together exactly so that each boundary had a common node.
- 2.4.4 The maps were used to calculate parcel centroids (8-figure grid references) and accurate habitat areas for percentage cover of each habitat.
- 2.4.5 A map for each site was produced which accompanies the appropriate SINC citation (Volume 2). Each map has a legend, scale and O.S. copyright information. All maps were produced at an appropriate scale to ensure maximum legibility.

## 2.5 Limitations

- 2.5.1 The habitat survey was undertaken at the optimum period for vegetation survey (regarded as May to September), however the severe drought during the summer of 2022 had an impact on the survey and it is very likely that there was a degree of under-recording of plant species at each site.
- 2.5.2 This habitat survey does not constitute a full botanical survey.
- 2.5.3 Access was gained to most sites but there were a few cases where this was not possible where the landowner / manager could not be contacted or refused to provide access.

## 2.6 Evaluation

- 2.6.1 Existing and candidate SINCs were evaluated and the grade of each determined using the criteria (and methodology) detailed in the document *Policy, criteria and procedures for identifying nature conservation sites in London* (London Wildlife Site Board (LWSB) - update March 2019):

- Representation
- Habitat rarity
- Species rarity
- Habitat richness
- Species richness.
- Size
- Important populations of species
- Ancient character
- Re-creatability
- Typical urban character
- Cultural or historic character
- Geographic position
- Access
- Use
- Potential
- Aesthetic appeal
- Geodiversity interest.

- 2.6.2 These criteria were used with professional judgement and with adequate information regarding each site and its position within the local, borough or metropolitan context. This stage of the evaluation process also included:



- A review of the reasons for assessing a particular site as a SINC and the rationale for the grade suggested
- Why a site was not recommended for designation as a SINC and the reasons for its rejection.

2.6.3 Additionally, where applicable, the evaluation of each site took account of the following:

- The presence of Species and Habitats of Principle Importance
- The presence of other notable species such as London Notable plants, London BAP Priority Species, rare species (red listed species), species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and/or the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010. These are collectively referred to as 'priority species' in the report
- The impact (where appropriate) of historic and current management and use of each site
- A consideration of the vulnerability and potential threats to the integrity of each site
- Management or capital works required to maintain or enhance biodiversity value of each site
- Habitat or linkage creation/restoration.

2.6.4 When considering whether an existing SINC should be expanded onto adjacent land, the following factors indicate the proposed expansion area is incorporated:

- The expansion area qualifies for SINC designation in its own right **and/or**;
- It acts as a buffer to the existing SINC **and/or**
- It supports the ecological functionality of the existing SINC **and/or**;
- It acts as a wildlife corridor, for example linking two SINC  
**and**
- There is a reasonable expectation that the expansion area will be managed with nature conservation in mind.

2.6.5 If the above do not apply, it is recommended that the expansion area is excluded.

2.6.6 In a few cases, it is recommended that parcels of land within existing SINC are removed from the SINC designation. This is where parts of the SINC no longer qualify for SINC status and do not meet the criteria detailed in para 2.6.4 above.

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Detailed results of the surveys carried out in 2022 including site survey forms (including survey information, open space typology, habitat notes, habitat percentage cover, brief management recommendations etc), habitat maps (including site boundaries, parcel boundaries, expansion areas and excluded areas), target notes and citations can be found in Volume 2: Supporting information. Full species lists are supplied in an accompanying Excel spreadsheet with summary information (Notable vascular plants and non-native invasive species) in Volume 2. Site photographs are in appendix 1 of this report.

3.1.2 Permission could not be obtained, or was refused, for the following sites:

- Royal Mid Surrey Golf Course
- Trowlock Avenue riverside land, Teddington
- Collis Primary School
- Grotto Road Open Space
- Ham Polo Club
- Kew Riverside (Kew Biotherm Sewage Treatment Works)
- Riverside Drive Paddocks
- St Mary's and Oldfield Road land
- St Mary's University
- Sunnyside Reservoir plot at NW corner

### 3.2 Summary of results

#### Species

3.2.1 During the 2022 survey, a total of 1586 species records were made (385 individual species). Of these, ten were London Notable vascular plants (eight individual species) and 62 were non-native invasive plants (14 individual species). See volume 2 for a list of notable and non-native invasive species for each site.

#### Habitats

3.2.2 The following Habitats of Principal Importance (GLA habitat name in brackets) were recorded during the 2022 survey: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (Native broadleaved woodland), Eutrophic standing waters (Standing water), Lowland dry acid grassland (Acid grassland), Native hedgerows and Traditional orchards (Orchard).

3.2.3 The following Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats were also recorded: Ancient and Veteran Trees, Broadleaved Woodland, Hedgerows, Lowland acid grassland and Neutral grassland. Acid grassland, Standing water and Woodland are also London Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats.

3.2.4 The distribution of Habitats of Principal Importance are shown in table 6 below. Habitat percentage cover at each parcel/site is given in the habitat survey forms in volume 2.

**Table 6: Distribution of Habitats of Principal Importance**

Habitat	Site
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Chertsey Road Meadow, Grey Court School and Sports pitches, Nursery Green, Linear Walk and Partridge Green, Oak Lane Cemetery, Palewell Pitch and Putt, Petersham Common
Eutrophic standing waters	Hampton Court School
Lowland dry acid grassland	Borough Cemetery, Hampton Court School, Hounslow Cemetery, Kneller Hall, Lensbury Club Grounds
Native hedgerows	Challenge Court Open Space, Kneller Gardens, Riverside Drive Open Space and Palm Centre, St Mary the Virgin (Twickenham)
Traditional orchards	Orford House

### 3.3 Analysis

3.3.1 Tables 4 to 37 below provide a summary of the desktop and survey findings for each site and include an analysis against the SINC selection criteria following London Wildlife Site Board guidance (2013). Important habitats and species for each site are highlighted. The results are based on surveys carried out in 2022. Detailed survey results for the 2022 survey are in Volume 2.

3.3.2 Existing designations and previous names are given in brackets.

**Table 4: SINC selection criteria – Barn Elms Riverside (candidate site).**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	A strip of non-native woodland between the Thames Path and the Barn Elms Sports Centre grounds.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	0.99Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	None known
Recreatability	Woodland is difficult to recreate and takes a long time
Typical urban character	A typical area of urban woodland
Cultural or historic character	None known
Geographic position	Adjacent to the River Thames
Access	Inaccessible but can be viewed from Thames Path
Use	none
Potential	Potential to improve the woodland by removal of non-native trees and selective thinning/coppicing.
Aesthetic appeal	Woodland is an attractive habitat although unsympathetic boundaries make this woodland less appealing than many. It does however screen the Thames Path from the sports pitches and buildings.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 5: SINC selection criteria – Lensbury Club grounds (Candidate site).**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Acid grassland, amenity grassland and scattered trees
Habitat rarity	Areas of degraded acid grassland
Species rarity	No notable species recorded during the survey The data search returned a number of priority species including 27 species of bird and 6 species of bat, however many of these are likely to be associated with the adjacent River Thames. Common frog and common toad were the amphibia recorded. Invertebrates included stag beetle and small heath butterfly.
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	0.56 ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	Not known
Recreatibility	Not re-creatable in the short term
Typical urban character	To North of Broom Rd and Lensbury Club building
Cultural or historic character	Formed in 1920s as sports and social club for employees of Shell.
Geographic position	Immediately Adjacent to the River Thames
Access	Restricted access (club members only)
Use	Recreational
Potential	Restoration of acid grassland through relaxation of mowing in selected areas of grassland
Aesthetic appeal	Open space for casual recreation immediately adjacent to the River Thames
Geodiversity interest	Not known

**Table 6: SINC selection criteria: Petersham Common (part of M082 Richmond Park and associated areas Site of Metropolitan Importance)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Native broadleaved woodland
Habitat rarity	Extensive mature woodland is uncommon within the borough
Species rarity	Wood sedge and remote sedge are London notable species. The data search returned records of 11 birds of note and two species of bat. Badger is recorded from the site and hedgehog is likely to be present having been recorded during a garden survey in the vicinity. Invertebrates of interest include the stag beetle, long-winged conehead, yellow-legged mining bee, cinnabar moth, wasp spider. Plants included greater tussock sedge, bluebell, ivy broomrape, mistletoe and common cudweed.
Habitat richness	Rich – good woodland structure with well-developed ground, shrub and canopy layers
Species richness	Rich – A good range of ground flora species were recorded
Size	6.4 ha
Important populations of species	None
Ancient character	Previously common land
Recreatability	Not recreatable
Typical urban character	Bounded by Petersham Rd and Richmond Hill. The Star and Garter home is immediately adjacent to the east.
Cultural or historic character	The woodland and surrounding area was originally common land for pasturing animals and gathering firewood
Geographic position	On a steep slope immediately to the west of Richmond Park and to the east of Petersham Meadows and the River Thames
Access	Free public access to the site but much of the woodland fenced off
Use	Public open space
Potential	Control the non-native invasive species winter heliotrope, Japanese rose and green alkanet to prevent further spread. Do not carry out any tree planting or woodland ground flora underplanting. Periodic thinning.
Aesthetic appeal	Feel of an ancient woodland
Geodiversity interest	Not known

**Table 7: SINC selection criteria – American University (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Formal garden with a number of specimen trees
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None recorded via survey. However, GiGL notes bats and stag beetle as recorded from the general locality
Habitat richness	Average for size of site
Species richness	Average
Size	0.77ha (small)
Important populations of species	The site has several species of fine mature/specimen trees planted including Irish yew and three large pedunculate oaks
Ancient character	Not ancient
Recreatability	Essentially not recreatable
Typical urban character	College campus in urban setting
Cultural or historic character	Founded as Richmond College in 1843, the school was originally a constituent part of the University of London. But in due course became the American International University in London. Its international community currently includes students from 120 different countries.
Geographic position	Embedded in the urban fabric which includes housing and a school
Access	Restricted to staff, students etc
Use	Garden at heart of college campus
Potential	Biodiversity could be improved by providing bird and bat boxes in appropriate locations as well as increasing nectar plants in planting beds
Aesthetic appeal	Attractive formal garden
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 8: SINC selection criteria – Grey Court School grounds & sports field (candidate site).**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Native broadleaved woodland, non-native broadleaved woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees.
Habitat rarity	No rare habitats.
Species rarity	No plant species of note recorded during the habitat survey. Numerous badger holes were noted in the woodland in the woodland immediately adjacent to the school grounds.  The data search returned 27 species of birds of interest. Other species included hedgehog and common frog.
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	4.54 ha
Important populations of species	Badger
Ancient character	Not known
Recreatability	Amenity grassland areas recreatable
Typical urban character	Suburban housing to the south, west and east of the site. Open land including The Copse to the north.
Cultural or historic character	School was built in the grounds of the Georgian Grey Court House
Geographic position	Ham, to the south of the River Thames and Ham House
Access	No public access
Use	School grounds
Potential	Woodland management – thin out non-native invasive species
Aesthetic appeal	Average
Geodiversity interest	Not known



**Table 9: SINC selection criteria – RiB34 Kneller Hall (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Acid grassland, scattered trees, tall herbs.
Habitat rarity	Acid grassland is an uncommon habitat.
Species rarity	No notable species recorded during the habitat survey The data search returned 2 species of note: house sparrow and song thrush. Common and soprano pipistrelle bats were recorded as well as hedgehog. There were also records of stag beetle.
Habitat richness	Average. A mix of acid grassland and scattered trees.
Species richness	Average. Species-poor acid grassland over much of the site.
Size	6.7ha
Important populations of species	None
Ancient character	Not known
Recreatability	Not recreatable
Typical urban character	The site is surrounded by urban development with Kneller Rd to the south
Cultural or historic character	Kneller hall housed the Royal Military School of music.
Geographic position	Within an urban area with little nearby greenspace.
Access	No public access
Use	Site currently derelict
Potential	Restoration of acid grassland through a sympathetic mowing regime
Aesthetic appeal	High potential
Geodiversity interest	Not known

**Table 10: SINC selection criteria: RiB35 Oak Lane Cemetery (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Good example of a little managed closed cemetery
Habitat rarity	None
Species rarity	None recorded during survey, GiGL reported several occurrences of hedgehog and stag beetle in the locality. The now out of date interpretation panel states that 'pipistrelle and long eared bats' were roosting on site.
Habitat richness	Average
Species richness	Poor to average
Size	0.61ha (small)
Important populations of species	None recorded
Ancient character	Is not ancient
Recreatability	Not recreatable
Typical urban character	Typical urban cemetery surrounded by housing
Cultural or historic character	The cemetery was opened in 1838 (which is quite early with regards this specific land use). The last burial was in 1955. A number of military contemporaries of Wellington and Nelson are buried here.
Geographic position	The site is situated in a heavily built-up landscape
Access	Open
Use	Closed cemetery – passive recreation
Potential	The cemetery's grassland is particularly species poor and would benefit greatly from a more sympathetic mowing regime and comprehensive management plan
Aesthetic appeal	Is a tranquil place within this built-up area
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 11: SINC selection criteria – RiB21 Orford House (St Michael’s Convent, Site of Borough Importance)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Non-native broadleaved woodland, orchard, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, acid grassland, amenity grassland
Habitat rarity	Mature orchards are uncommon in the borough
Species rarity	No notable plant species were recorded during the habitat survey. However, a veteran mulberry tree was recorded at the site. The data search returned song thrush, swift and house sparrow records. Stag beetle and hedgehog were also recorded
Habitat richness	Average.
Species richness	Average
Size	0.92 ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	Not known
Recreatability	Recreatable in the long term
Typical urban character	Housing developments lie to the north and east of the site with Ham Common to the South and school grounds to the west.
Cultural or historic character	The original Orford House was built between 1700 and 1734. After several changes of ownership it became a convent in 1949
Geographic position	Ham, immediately to the north of Ham Common
Access	No public access
Use	Grounds of retirement home
Potential	Modify mowing regime of grassland areas to benefit biodiversity. Bring neglected areas of woodland into management. Reduce cover of non-native shrubs especially cherry laurel.
Aesthetic appeal	Quiet retreat for retirement home residents
Geodiversity interest	Not known

**Table 12: SINC selection criteria – Borough Cemetery (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Acid grassland, planted shrubbery, amenity grassland
Habitat rarity	Lowland acid grassland is nationally uncommon
Species rarity	White stone crop, recorded on many of the graves is a London Notable species. The data search returned 3 birds of note; house sparrow, starling and song thrush. There are also records of hedgehog and stag beetle
Habitat richness	Average
Species richness	Average, however the acid grassland was relatively species-rich
Size	3.97ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	None
Recreatability	Not readily recreatable
Typical urban character	Housing developments lie to the north, south and west of the site. Heathfield recreation ground is to the east.
Cultural or historic character	Burial ground since 1942
Geographic position	In an urban area but within 0.5km of Hounslow Heath to the north-west
Access	Open Access
Use	Burial ground
Potential	Modify mowing regime to restore acid grassland
Aesthetic appeal	Area for quiet contemplation
Geodiversity interest	Not known

**Table 13: SINC selection criteria: Broom Road Recreation Ground (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Area of rough semi-improved neutral grassland and scattered trees over roughland.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None recorded from survey, GiGL report lesser noctule and Natterer's bat in the locality as well as brown hairstreak
Habitat richness	Poor
Species richness	Poor to average
Size	2.23ha (small)
Important populations of species	None recorded
Ancient character	Not ancient
Recreatability	Not in current Thameside location
Typical urban character	Urban roughland within an urban recreation ground
Cultural or historic character	None recorded
Geographic position	Adjoins River Thames
Access	Open
Use	Part of larger recreation ground often used by joggers and dog walkers
Potential	Site has great potential nature conservation value if managed in a more sympathetic manner and an ecological management plan is formulated
Aesthetic appeal	Has a certain appeal as a relatively wild area in contrast to the amenity grass and lollipop trees associated with the rest of the recreation ground
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 14: SINC selection criteria - Challenge Court open space (candidate site)**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Representation	Typical recreated and unmanaged habitat
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	No rare species recorded via survey, However GiGL report house sparrow, bats, stag beetle and song thrush from the surrounding area
Habitat richness	Poor
Species richness	Poor-average
Size	0.89ha (small)
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	Is not ancient
Recreatibility	Essentially not recreatable due to lack of available land in locality
Typical urban character	Largely unmanaged nature area within a varied urban landscape
Cultural or historic character	Is not historic. Associated with the adjacent Challenge Court and Harlequins Rugby Union F.C.
Geographic position	Linked to the open spaces associated with the River Crane (Twickenham)
Access	Open
Use	Informal nature area frequently used by dog walkers and as a de facto BMX course
Potential	Great improvements in biodiversity value could be expected if a more sympathetic grassland management regime were to be adopted
Aesthetic appeal	A welcome wild space not that far from the busy Chertsey Road
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 15: SINC selection criteria – Hampton Court School (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Scattered trees, coniferous woodland, acid grassland, amenity grassland, standing water, typha swamp.
Habitat rarity	Lowland acid grassland is a nationally uncommon habitat
Species rarity	Purple-loosestrife, recorded within the pond is a London Notable species. A veteran mulberry tree was recorded.  The data search returned a number of species of note. However, many of these records are from the adjacent Bushy Park. Birds included tawny owl, house sparrow and skylark. Thirty species of beetle, including stag beetle were recorded as well as 8 species from other invertebrate groups. Bats listed were soprano and common pipistrelle.
Habitat richness	Average
Species richness	Average
Size	2.32 ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	Not known
Recreatability	Not readily recreatable
Typical urban character	Surrounded by open ground. Hampton Court Rd is 130m to the south-west.
Cultural or historic character	Hampton Court House is a Grade II listed building and is listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Hampton Court House was built in 1757 by George Montague Dunk. The house was built on what was then part of Hampton Court Green which extended from Bushy Park on the north to the River Thames on the south.
Geographic position	Bounded by Bushy Park to the north, west and east with Hampton Court Green to the south
Access	No public access
Use	School grounds
Potential	Modify mowing regime to restore areas of acid grassland
Aesthetic appeal	A pleasant garden adjacent to Bushy Park
Geodiversity interest	Not known

**Table 16: SINC selection criteria – Jubilee Meadow (Heathfield Nature Park, candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal/ephemeral habitat, scrub
Habitat rarity	None
Species rarity	Great lettuce, recorded during the site survey, is a London Notable species. The data search returned a number of notable birds including mistle thrush, house sparrow, song thrush, starling and swift. Among the reptiles, common lizard and slow worm have been recorded. Invertebrates include stag beetle and mammals, the hedgehog.
Habitat richness	Average
Species richness	Average
Size	2.2ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	Not known
Recreatability	Not re-creatable in the short term
Typical urban character	The site is surrounded by housing development to the north and west. The site to the east is undergoing development.
Cultural or historic character	Not known
Geographic position	Immediately adjacent to Brough Cemetery
Access	No access to the public
Use	None
Potential	Enhancement of grassland through a sympathetic mowing regime
Aesthetic appeal	Open field that contrasts with surrounding urban conurbation
Geodiversity interest	Not known



**Table 17: SINC selection criteria – Hounslow Cemetery (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Acid grassland, planted shrubbery, ruderal/ephemeral vegetation
Habitat rarity	Lowland acid grassland is nationally uncommon
Species rarity	No rare species were recorded during the survey The data search returned a few notable species of bird including starling, swift, house sparrow and song thrush. Invertebrates included the stag beetle as well as the hymenopterans; bee wolf and <i>Mimesa bruxellensis</i> . Hedgehog was also recored
Habitat richness	Average
Species richness	Average/rich
Size	3.06ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	Not known
Recreatibility	Not re-creatable in the short term
Typical urban character	A railway line lies to the north with housing developments to the south, west and east
Cultural or historic character	The land was allocated as a cemetery in 1869
Geographic position	Hounslow: To the south of Hounslow Heath
Access	Open access
Use	Burial ground
Potential	Enhancement/restoration of acid grassland areas through sympathetic mowing regime
Aesthetic appeal	Area for quiet contemplation
Geodiversity interest	Not known

**Table 18: SINC selection criteria - Nursery Green, Linear Walk & Partridge Green (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Two small urban open spaces surrounded by housing and roads. They have areas of amenity grassland, native and no-native hedges and scattered trees. A small, areas of native woodland can be found in Nursery green and a line of trees and scrub along the southern boundary may be the remnants of an old hedgeline.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	2.11Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	Although the habitats present are not old the strip of scrub may be the remnant of a much older hedgeline.
Recreatability	The habitats in the formal areas of the site are easily recreatable but the woodland and possible old hedgeline would be much more difficult.
Typical urban character	A typical urban open space made more interesting by the possible old hedge line.
Cultural or historic character	The strip of trees and scrub may be the line of on old hedge.
Geographic position	Situated in Hampton, Bushy Park and Kempton Nature Reserve are both nearby.
Access	Fully accessible
Use	Public Open Space
Potential	If research shows that the line of trees is an old hedge this could be restored by suitable planting and management.
Aesthetic appeal	The trees, hedges and woodland are attractive features. .
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 19: SINC selection criteria - Orleans Gardens (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	A park flanking the river Thames. Originally linked to the grounds of Orleans House by a tunnel passing under the road. Habitats include amenity grassland, scattered large trees and native hedges.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	1.52Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	Originally linked to the gardens of Orleans House which date back to the early 18 <sup>th</sup> Century.
Recreatability	The habitats present could be recreated but many of the trees are large and it would take a long time to replace them.
Typical urban character	An attractive historic urban park with a mix of common urban habitats and visitor facilities adjacent to River Thames
Cultural or historic character	Formerly linked to Orleans House Gardens. These were originally purchased by James Johnston, former Secretary of State for Scotland, in 1702. The landscaping was formalised in the mid-18 <sup>th</sup> Century. The house was demolished in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century.
Geographic position	Adjacent to River Thames
Access	Fully accessible
Use	Public park with a playground and public toilets
Potential	Potential to improve the wildlife value by appropriate planting and management around boundaries, especially adjacent to the River Thames.
Aesthetic appeal	The large trees and surroundings make this an attractive park. Good views over the River Thames.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 20: SINC selection criteria - School House Lane Orchard (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	A small urban open space with numerous fruit trees planted to create an orchard. The majority of the site consists of amenity grassland with scattered trees and planted ornamental shrub beds around the perimeter. Fruit trees have been planted to create a community orchard.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	0.09Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	None known
Recreatability	Although the site could be recreated the large trees would take a long time to re-establish.
Typical urban character	Although this is a fairly typical open space greater interest has been added by the planting of fruit trees and shrubs to create a community orchard.
Cultural or historic character	None known
Geographic position	In Hampton close to Bushy Park
Access	Open access via limited access points
Use	Well used by local residents including regular volunteer workdays to manage and improve the community orchard.
Potential	The shrub beds could be improved for wildlife by removal of non-native shrubs and planting of native species and more fruit trees/shrubs.
Aesthetic appeal	This is an attractive small urban site which is well used by local people. Orchards have aesthetic appeal visually and for food growing and education.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 21: SINC selection criteria - St Mary Magdalen, RC Churchyard, Mortlake (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Excellent example of an urban churchyard
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None recorded during survey. GiGL reported house sparrow, song thrush, bats, hedgehog from the local area
Habitat richness	Average
Species richness	Average
Size	0.32ha (small)
Important populations of species	None recorded
Ancient character	Is not ancient
Recreatability	Not recreatable
Typical urban character	Mostly enclosed by terraced housing and other urban features
Cultural or historic character	Work on the church building began in 1851 (22 years after the Catholic emancipation) and was completed in 1852. Several notable individuals are buried in the churchyard including poets, painters, writers and architects and Sir Richard Burton (d.1890) explorer.
Geographic position	South of the Thames and St Mary the Virgin. There is no direct green space linkage between sites
Access	Open 9am to 3pm
Use	Closed burial ground
Potential	Revise grass cutting regime to maximise biodiversity, instal bird/bat boxes in appropriate locations. Use by adjacent schools for nature study
Aesthetic appeal	Attractive open space
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 22: SINC selection criteria - St Mary Magdelene, Paradise Road, Richmond (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Urban churchyard
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None recorded via survey. GiGL reported house sparrow, song thrush, firecrest, starling, stag beetle, hedgehog and bats have been found in the general locality
Habitat richness	Poor
Species richness	Poor to average
Size	0.28ha (small)
Important populations of species	None recorded
Ancient character	The church site has been a place of worship in the centre of Richmond for over 800 years.
Recreatability	Essentially not recreatable
Typical urban character	Situated within an urban landscape
Cultural or historic character	St Mary's was rebuilt in the period 1487-1506. It has been significantly altered over time but continues to be of great architectural and historical significance. It plays an important part in the religious and social lives of the people of Richmond.
Geographic position	A green island in a busy and densely urbanised area
Access	Open
Use	Closed churchyard
Potential	Erect bird/bat boxes in suitable locations to enhance current biodiversity value
Aesthetic appeal	Attractive green oasis
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 23: SINC selection criteria: St Mary, Church Street, Twickenham (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Urban churchyard
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	The survey revealed two London notables on site: mouse-ear hawkweed and wall rue. GiGL recorded the following species from the locality: house sparrow, song thrush, hedgehog, stag beetle and a variety of bats
Habitat richness	Average
Species richness	Average
Size	0.29ha (small)
Important populations of species	The two London notable plant species mentioned above. Additionally, the frequency of bat records indicate that some species may occur on or near the site
Ancient character	Not ancient
Recreatability	Essentially not recreatable
Typical urban character	Sits in a varied urban landscape
Cultural or historic character	The church is Grade 2 listed and an important hub in the locality. The nave collapsed in 1713 and the church largely rebuilt. The tower, however, dates to the 15 <sup>th</sup> century
Geographic position	Adjacent to York House Gardens with the River Thames to the south
Access	Open
Use	Closed cemetery and open space
Potential	To improve biodiversity erect bird and bat boxes in appropriate locations
Aesthetic appeal	Attractive building and green space
Geodiversity interest	None recorded

**Table 24: SINC selection criteria - Cambridge and Warren Gardens (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Typical public park and garden with amenity grassland and scattered trees
Habitat rarity	Is not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Poor to average
Species richness	Poor to average
Size	0.88ha (small)
Important populations of species	None known. Bats and stag beetle have been recorded by GiGL to the south of the area. Site would offer limited opportunities for foraging bats but is unlikely to present sites for roosting. There is no obvious decay wood for stag beetles.
Ancient character	Is not ancient
Recreatability	Location next to the Thames is not recreatable
Typical urban character	Barring location next to the Thames it is a typical public park/garden within the urban fabric
Cultural or historic character	Important greenspace next to Thameside path.
Geographic position	Adjoins River Thames
Access	Open
Use	Public park and walkway
Potential	Given current use there is little potential for change
Aesthetic appeal	Attractive park
Geodiversity interest	None known



**Table 25: SINC selection criteria - Carlisle Park (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	A large well used urban park with a bowling green, children's playground, ornamental planted shrub beds, scattered large trees and extensive areas of short mown amenity grassland.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	4.32Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	N/A
Recreatability	Easily re-creatable although trees would take a long time
Typical urban character	Typical urban park with range of common habitats and facilities for park users
Cultural or historic character	The park appears to be 20 <sup>th</sup> Century in origin
Geographic position	In densely urban setting approx. 500m west of Bushy Park
Access	Fully accessible, with limited entry points
Use	Urban park
Potential	Potential to diversify the habitats through suitable tree and shrub planting, relaxing mowing regimes etc. but this would be restricted by the requirements of the amenity use of the park.
Aesthetic appeal	The park is reasonable attractive with large tree, shrub beds etc but the central area is all short-mown grassland.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 26: SINC selection criteria - Chertsey Road Meadow (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	An area of rough grassland, scattered trees and roughland used as a car park and car boot sale. Extensive areas of bare ground caused by vehicles.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	2.7Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	N/A
Recreatability	Easily re-creatable although trees would take a long time
Typical urban character	Typical urban site which is heavily used.
Cultural or historic character	N/A
Geographic position	Adjacent to busy main road, rugby stadium and areas of housing.
Access	Fully accessible, with limited entry points
Use	Car park
Potential	Little potential due to heavy use
Aesthetic appeal	Little aesthetic value apart for some of the larger trees.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 27: SINC selection criteria - Isleworth Promenade (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	A narrow municipal park mostly consisting of amenity grassland, scattered trees and ornamental shrub beds adjacent to the River Thames.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	0.74Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	N/A
Recreatibility	Easily re-creatable although trees would take a long time
Typical urban character	An urban park adjacent to the River Thames which is well used by visitors.
Cultural or historic character	N/A
Geographic position	Adjacent to River Thames
Access	Fully accessible, with limited entry points
Use	Public open space
Potential	Potential to improve the wildlife value by appropriate planting in the ornamental shrub beds and around boundaries
Aesthetic appeal	Attractive park next to the River Thames with good views across the river. Several large attractive trees.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 28: SINC selection criteria - Kneller Gardens (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	A municipal park mostly consisting of amenity grassland, scattered trees and ornamental shrub beds with various sports and other visitor facilities. The southern boundary is composed of the banks of the Duke of Northumberland's River and the River Crane.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	2.48Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	N/A
Recreatability	Easily re-creatable although trees would take a long time
Typical urban character	An urban park with a mix of common urban habitats and facilities adjacent to Duke of Northumberland's River and the River Crane
Cultural or historic character	The park appears to be of 20 <sup>th</sup> Century origin.
Geographic position	Adjacent to Duke of Northumberland's River and the River Crane
Access	Fully accessible, with limited entry points
Use	Public open space
Potential	Potential to improve the wildlife value by appropriate planting and management around boundaries, especially adjacent to the rivers.
Aesthetic appeal	The Duke of Northumberland's River and the River Crane are both attractive as are the areas of scattered trees.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 29: SINC selection criteria - Palewell Pitch & Putt (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Amenity grassland, native broadleaved woodland, scattered trees
Habitat rarity	Low
Species rarity	No rare or notable species recorded during the survey. The data search returned the following species of note: swift, Daubenton's, bat, badger and stag beetle.
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	0.97ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	None
Recreatibility	Amenity grassland is re-creatable
Typical urban character	Housing development to the south-east of the site.
Cultural or historic character	Not known
Geographic position	East Sheen: to the north of Palewell Common and immediately adjacent to the Beverley Brook
Access	Open access
Use	Golf putting green
Potential	Allow development of an ecotone through relaxing mowing at the western edge of the site adjacent to the Beverley Brook
Aesthetic appeal	Low – predominantly amenity grassland
Geodiversity interest	Not known

**Table 30: SINC selection criteria - Radnor Gardens (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	A formal urban park flanking the river Thames. It is popular and well used with a variety of sports and visitor facilities. It is mainly amenity grassland, scattered trees, ornamental planting and bare artificial areas. The Thames Path is well used.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	1.86Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	None known
Recreatability	The habitats present could be recreated reasonably easily but the large trees would take a long time to replace.
Typical urban character	A typical urban park with a mix of common urban habitats and visitor facilities adjacent to River Thames
Cultural or historic character	A summerhouse and gazebo in the gardens date from the mid-18th century
Geographic position	Adjacent to River Thames
Access	Fully accessible with limited access points
Use	Public park with a cafe, bowls club and play area
Potential	Potential to improve the wildlife value by appropriate management on the banks of the River Thames.
Aesthetic appeal	Good views over the River Thames. Attractive trees and formal areas together with some historic features.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 31: SINC selection criteria - Riverside Drive Open Space and Palm Centre triangle (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Riverside Drive Open Space is dominated by amenity grassland, with a playground and an area where management has allowed the development of a more species rich grassland. Palm Centre triangle is also mostly amenity grassland with scattered trees.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	1.04Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	None known
Recreatability	The habitats present could be recreated reasonably easily but the large trees on Palm Centre Triangle would take a long time to replace.
Typical urban character	A typical urban open space with amenity grassland and scattered trees.
Cultural or historic character	None known
Geographic position	Close to Ham Lake and Ham Lands
Access	Fully accessible
Use	Public open space with a playground
Potential	Potential to improve and extend the grassland further by appropriate meadow management.
Aesthetic appeal	Palm Centre Triangle has some attractive trees.
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 32: SINC selection criteria - Sheen Common (part) (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Mostly an area of species-poor amenity grassland typical of heavily used sport pitches
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	Not rare
Habitat richness	Poor
Species richness	Poor
Size	1.86ha (small)
Important populations of species	None known - GiGL data indicates stag beetle and song thrush as present in the locality but there is little habitat on site which would support these species
Ancient character	Not ancient
Recreatability	Could be recreated with relative ease within a suitable area of open space
Typical urban character	Typical urban cricket field
Cultural or historic character	None known
Geographic position	Part of Sheen Common
Access	Open
Use	Cricket field
Potential	None given current use
Aesthetic appeal	Pleasant area of open space within a largely urban area
Geodiversity interest	None known



**Table 33: SINC selection criteria - South Circular triangle, Barnes (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Amenity Grassland and scattered trees
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	0.23Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	N/A
Recreatability	Easily re-creatable although trees would take a long time
Typical urban character	Typical urban amenity grassland
Cultural or historic character	None
Geographic position	Adjacent to Barnes common
Access	Open
Use	Traffic island
Potential	None
Aesthetic appeal	Low. Trees are attractive
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 34: SINC selection criteria - St Mary Parish Church, Hampton (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Amenity grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, non-native broadleaved woodland, planted shrubbery
Habitat rarity	Low
Species rarity	No rare or notable species were recorded during the survey The data search returned the following species of note: house sparrow, song thrush, stag beetle, soprano pipistrelle bat and hedgehog
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	0.42 ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	None known
Recreatibility	The areas of amenity grassland are re-creatable
Typical urban character	The site is surrounded by sub-urban development. Thames Street is immediately to the south.
Cultural or historic character	The site has been occupied by a church since at least the 15 <sup>th</sup> C
Geographic position	Hampton. Immediately to the north of the River Thames
Access	Open access
Use	Churchyard
Potential	Enhance areas of grassland through relaxation of the mowing regime in selected areas
Aesthetic appeal	Area for quiet contemplation
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 35: SINC selection criteria – St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Typical urban churchyard
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	No rare species recorded on site. However, GiGL reported the presence of house sparrow, song thrush, bats and hedgehog in the local area
Habitat richness	Poor to average
Species richness	Average
Size	1.25ha (small)
Important populations of species	None recorded
Ancient character	Not ancient
Recreatability	Essentially not recreatable
Typical urban character	Churchyard (which is now dissected by footpaths) sits within the urban fabric of Mortlake next to the busy Mortlake High Street
Cultural or historic character	The church was built in 1543. Since then, the building has undergone many alterations and enlargements, of the original Tudor church, only the tower remains. Several notable people are buried in the churchyard including a Prime Minister, Lord Sidmouth (d.1844), and three Lord Mayors.
Geographic position	St Mary's sits between St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church and the River Thames in an urban area. It is not directly linked to any other green space or SINC
Access	Southern parts of the site only
Use	Closed churchyard – cut through between North Worple Way and Mortlake High Street
Potential	Biodiversity could be improved by supplying bird and bat boxes in appropriate locations and providing more nectar sources with regards ornamental planting
Aesthetic appeal	Is an attractive peaceful location
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 36: SINC selection criteria - St Mary's, Church Road, Barnes (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	Typical urban churchyard
Habitat rarity	None
Species rarity	None recorded during survey, GiGL report several sightings of hedgehog, bats and house sparrow from the locality
Habitat richness	Poor
Species richness	Poor to average
Size	0.22ha (very small)
Important populations of species	Has a large specimen yew tree at the front of the church. Barring this, none recorded
Ancient character	Not ancient
Recreatibility	Essentially not re-creatable
Typical urban character	Largely enclosed by housing
Cultural or historic character	Lies within a Conservation Area and is an important hub for local people. The Church of St Mary, Barnes has a Grade 2* listing. It dates from around the time of the Domesday Book. In 1978 the church was largely destroyed by fire and designs were developed for a new church. This occupies the site of its predecessors and incorporates elements of historical significance and architectural distinction.
Geographic position	Has large private gardens to the west and east otherwise embedded in the urban fabric of Barnes
Access	Open
Use	Closed churchyard
Potential	Biodiversity might be improved by erecting bird/bat boxes in selected locations on building and planting more pollen-rich plants for bees and butterflies
Aesthetic appeal	Attractive building and grounds
Geodiversity interest	None known

**Table 37: SINC selection criteria - Udney Hall Gardens (candidate site)**

Criteria	Comments
Representation	An urban park with numerous large trees including several yews, a large oak and several London plane. The majority of the site consists of regularly mown amenity grassland. However, an area on the southern boundary has been left unmown and supports a mixture of ruderal species.
Habitat rarity	Not rare
Species rarity	None known
Habitat richness	Low
Species richness	Low
Size	1.04Ha
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	None
Recreatability	The habitats are all recreatable, but the large trees would take a very long time to reach maturity.
Typical urban character	A typical urban park.
Cultural or historic character	Udney Hall was originally the house of former Lord Mayor of London, Sir Charles Duncombe. Built in the 1700s, was demolished in 1946 but the gardens remain.
Geographic position	Situated in Teddington. Bushy Park and the River Thames are both nearby.
Access	Open via limited access points
Use	Public park
Potential	The site could be improved for wildlife by planting of native species and management of the ruderal area as a meadow.
Aesthetic appeal	The trees, hedges and woodland are attractive features.
Geodiversity interest	None known

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The following section gives an explanation of tiers of sites and Areas of Deficiency (AoD) and provides recommendations regarding the appropriate grade of designation for each site.

#### **Tiers of sites**

- 4.1.2 Three tiers of sites of importance for nature conservation are recognised in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:

#### **Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation**

- 4.1.3 Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation are those sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London. There are ten Sites of Metropolitan Importance in Richmond.
- 4.1.4 In Richmond, these sites have been selected as they support a regionally significant extent of at least one Habitat of Principal Importance including ponds, rivers, lowland dry acid grassland, open mosaic habitats on previously developed land, reedbeds, wet woodland and Lowland Mixed deciduous woodland.
- 4.1.5 Sites are also selected if they support significant populations of notable species i.e. legally protected species, London Notable Plants, London BAP priority species, London Species of Conservation Concern or red data book species. Sites have been recommended for upgrade where a site of borough importance meet these criteria. Expansion areas have been added where these provide connectivity to another site, act as a buffer to the Site of Metropolitan Importance or are important for its ecological functionality.
- 4.1.6 One site is recommended for retention within Richmond Park and Associated Areas Site of Metropolitan Importance and two sites are recommended for incorporation into the River Thames and Tidal Tributaries Site of Metropolitan Importance.

#### **Sites of Borough Importance**

- 4.1.7 Sites of Borough Importance are important at a borough level in the same way as the Metropolitan sites are important to the whole of London. Although sites of similar quality may be found elsewhere in London, damage to these sites would mean a significant loss to the borough. As with Metropolitan sites, while protection is important, management of borough sites should usually allow and encourage their enjoyment by people and their use for education. One site is recommended for incorporation into The Copse, Holly Hedge Field and Ham Avenues Site of Borough Importance. Three sites are recommended for retention as Sites of Borough

Importance and four sites are recommended for selection as Sites of Borough Importance.

### **Sites of Local Importance**

- 4.1.8 A Site of Local Importance is one which is, or may be, of particular value to people nearby (such as residents or schools). These sites may already be used for nature study or be run by management committees mainly composed of local people. Where a Site of Metropolitan or Borough Importance may be so enjoyed it acts as a Local site, but further sites are given this designation in recognition of their role. This local importance means that these sites also deserve protection in planning. Local sites are particularly important in areas otherwise deficient in nearby wildlife sites. To aid the choice of these further local sites, Areas of Deficiency (see 4.1.9 below) are identified. Further Local sites are chosen as the best available to alleviate this deficiency; such sites need not lie in the Area of Deficiency, but should be as near to it as possible. Where no such sites are available, opportunities should be taken to provide them by habitat enhancement or creation, by negotiating access and management agreements, or by direct acquisition. Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified. One site is recommended for incorporation into the Marble Hill Park and Orleans House Gardens Site of Local Importance and ten sites of Local Importance have been recommended for selection in Richmond.

### **Areas of Deficiency**

- 4.1.9 Areas of Deficiency are defined as built-up areas more than one-kilometre actual walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or borough site. These aid the choice of Sites of Local Importance.

## 5 Recommendations

### 5.1 Review of existing and candidate SINCS

- 5.1.1 Each existing / candidate SINC was re-evaluated / evaluated using LWSB criteria. A habitat map and species list was produced for each site (Volume 2) highlighting key habitats, species and other characteristics which indicate the proposed tier of designation. A citation was also developed for those sites recommended for SINC designation.
- 5.1.2 Each site map shows the SINC boundary, parcel boundaries, areas that are recommended to be added to the SINC (expansion areas) and removed from it. Habitat maps show the extent and distribution of each habitat together with target notes highlighting features of nature conservation importance, particularly London Notable species and non-native invasive species.
- 5.1.3 The following provides recommendations for designating SINCS, incorporation of additional land (expansion areas), exclusion of land from existing SINCS and other miscellaneous changes. Justification for the proposed grading of new SINCS or the regrading of existing SINCS is provided. Recommendations for the inclusion of expansion areas for selected SINCS are also made.

### 5.2 SINCS – No Changes recommended

*Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation:*

- M082 Richmond Park and Associated Areas. Retain Petersham Common.

*Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation*

- RiB01 Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club (pending survey)
- RiB28 Trowlock Avenue riverside land, Teddington (pending survey)

### 5.3 Existing SINCS – Changes recommended

#### **M031 River Thames & Tidal Tributaries**

- 5.3.1 Incorporate additional land at Barn Elms Riverside. Although not of sufficient interest to qualify for designation in its own right, the area provides additional woodland habitat adjacent to the River Thames which may provide nesting habitat for birds.
- 5.3.2 Incorporate additional land at the Lensbury Club grounds. This area supports degraded acid grassland which has potential for restoration. Lowland dry acid grassland is a Habitat of Principal Importance.



### **RiB14 The Copse, Holly Hedge Field and Ham Avenues Site of Borough Importance**

- 5.3.3 Incorporate a small area of woodland within the Grey Court School Grounds and sports pitches site. The site does not qualify for SINC designation in its own right but provides additional woodland habitat and supports numerous badger setts.

### **RiB21 Orford House (St Michaels Convent)**

- 5.3.4 Retain as a site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. The site supports relatively species-rich semi-improved grassland and a mature orchard. Remove the developed area of the site from the SINC boundary as well as adjacent private land.

### **RiL02 Marble Hill Park and Orleans House Gardens Site of Local Importance**

- 5.3.5 Incorporate Orleans Gardens into the site. Although Orleans Gardens has low intrinsic value, it forms a habitat corridor between the River Thames, Orleans House Gardens and Marble Hill Park.

## **5.4 Candidate sites recommended for selection as Sites of Borough Importance**

### **RiB33 American University**

- 5.4.1 The site has several species of fine mature/specimen trees planted including Irish yew and three large pedunculate oaks. The site has dense (non-native) shrubbery which will offer shelter for common birds.

### **RiB34 Kneller Hall**

- 5.4.2 The site supports extensive areas of lowland dry acid grassland, a Habitat of Principal Importance as well as a number of mature trees which have the potential to provide breeding bird habitat.

### **RiB35 Oak Lane Cemetery**

- 5.4.3 The site is a good example of a little managed closed cemetery with a good range of trees including a fine mature pedunculate oak.

### **RiB36 Hounslow Cemetery**

- 5.4.4 The site supports an extensive area of lowland acid grassland, a Habitat of Principal Importance.

## **5.5 Candidate sites recommended for selection as Sites of Local Importance**

### **RiL31 Borough Cemetery**

5.5.1 The site supports an extensive area of acid grassland.

### **RiL32 Broom Road Recreation Ground**

5.5.2 The site currently has a relatively low value for nature conservation but has great potential if managed sympathetically.

### **RiL33 Challenge Court open space**

5.5.3 The site supports extensive semi-improved neutral grassland and is of likely interest for common insects and birds foraging and possibly breeding in scrub. The site has potential with appropriate management.

### **RiL34 Hampton Court School**

5.5.4 The site supports area of acid grassland and has a large pond with associated emergent and marginal vegetation. There are a number of veteran and mature trees scattered across the site.

### **RiL35 Jubilee Meadow (Heathfield Nature Park)**

5.5.5 The site has an extensive area of relatively species-rich semi-improved neutral grassland. The grassland has potential for enhancement with appropriate management.

### **RiL36 Nursery Green, Linear Walk & Partridge Green**

5.5.6 The southern boundary is formed of mature trees including large oaks.

### **RiL37 School House Lane Orchard**

5.5.7 The site has relatively low nature conservation value, however there are opportunities for community involvement and there is potential for enhancement with appropriate management.

### **RiL38 St Mary Magdalen, RC Churchyard, Mortlake**

- 5.5.8 This is an interesting site with plentiful scattered trees and relatively species-rich semi-improved neutral grassland, it will be of value to common birds and invertebrates.

### **RiL39 St Mary the Virgin, Church Street, Twickenham**

- 5.5.9 The site has several mature trees including deodar cedar, sycamore, wild cherry, false acacia and yew. Wall rue and mouse ear hawkweed, both London Notable plants, were recorded.

## **5.6 Candidate sites not recommended for selection**

- 5.6.1 The following sites do not meet the criteria for selection as SINC

- Carlisle Park
- Chertsey Road Meadow
- Isleworth Promenade, Middlesex bank of Thames
- Kneller Gardens
- Palewell Pitch & Putt
- Radnor Gardens
- Riverside Drive Open Space and Palm Centre triangle
- Sheen Common (part)
- South Circular triangle, Barnes
- St Mary Magdelene, Paradise Road, Richmond
- St Mary Parish Church, Hampton
- St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake High Street, Mortlake
- St Mary's, Church Road, Barnes
- Sunnyside Reservoir plot at NW corner
- Udney Hall Gardens

## **5.7 Candidate sites – survey outstanding**

- 5.7.1 Permission to survey the following candidate sites was not secured. Site survey is required before selection recommendations can be made.

- Collis Primary School
- Grotto Road Open Space
- Ham Polo Club
- Kew Riverside (Kew Biotherm Sewage Treatment Works)
- Riverside Drive Paddocks
- St Mary's and Oldfield Road land
- St Mary's University

See table 38 below for a summary of recommendations and Appendix 1 for a map of recommended SINCS.

**Table 38:** SINC status: Summary of recommendations

Old ref.	New ref.	Name	Recommendations
M031	M031	River Thames & Tidal Tributaries	Incorporate land at Barn Elms Riverside and land at Lensbury Club Grounds
M082	M082	Richmond Park and associated areas	No Change to status. Retain Petersham Common
RiBI01	RiB01	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club	No change to status pending survey
RiB28	RiB28	Trowlock Avenue riverside land, Teddington	Retain as Site of Borough Importance pending survey
RiB14	RiB14	RiB14 The Copse, Holly Hedge Field and Ham Avenues	Incorporate a small area of woodland within the Grey Court School Grounds and sports pitches site.
RiB21	RiB21	Orford House (St Michaels Convent)	Retain as a site of Borough Importance but remove developed area of site and adjacent private land
RiL02	RiL02	Marble Hill Park and Orleans House Gardens	Incorporate Orleans Gardens into the site.
Candidate site	RiB33	American University	Designate as Site of Borough Importance
Candidate site	RiB34	Kneller Hall	Designate as Site of Borough Importance
Candidate site	RiB35	Oak Lane Cemetery	Designate as Site of Borough Importance
Candidate site	RiB36	Hounslow Cemetery	Designate as Site of Borough Importance
Candidate site	RiL31	Borough Cemetery, Powdermill lane	Designate as Site of Local Importance
Candidate site	RiL32	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Designate as Site of Local Importance
Candidate site	RiL33	Challenge Court open space	Designate as Site of Local Importance
Candidate site	RiL34	Hampton Court School	Designate as Site of Local Importance
Candidate site	RiL35	Jubilee Meadow (Heathfield Nature Park)	Designate as Site of Local Importance

Old ref.	New ref.	Name	Recommendations
Candidate site	RiL36	Nursery Green, Linear Walk & Partridge Green	Designate as Site of Local Importance
Candidate site	RiL37	School House Lane Orchard	Designate as Site of Local Importance
Candidate site	RiL38	St Mary Magdalen, RC Churchyard, Mortlake	Designate as Site of Local Importance
Candidate site	RiL39	St Mary The virgin, Church Street, Twickenham	Designate as Site of Local Importance
Candidate site	N/A	Carlisle Park	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	Chertsey Road Meadow	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	Isleworth Promenade, Middlesex bank of Thames	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	Kneller Gardens	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	Palewell Pitch & Putt	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	Radnor Gardens	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	Riverside Drive Open Space and Palm Centre triangle	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	Sheen Common (part)	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	South Circular triangle, Barnes	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	St Mary Parish Church, Hampton	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake High Street, Mortlake	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	St Mary's, Church Road, Barnes	No designation recommended
Candidate site	N/A	Sunnyside Reservoir plot at NW corner	No designation recommended

## 6 References

ADVICE NOTE Process for selecting and confirming Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in Greater London

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The Mayor of London (2021) *The London Plan. The Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London*

## **Appendix 1: Photographs**



*Figure 3: Barn Elms Riverside (Sports Centre Field by river only)*





*Figure 4: Lensbury Club Grounds - degraded acid grassland*



*Figure 5: Petersham Common*



*Figure 6: American University*



*Figure 7: Grey Court School - woodland*



*Figure 8: Kneller Hall - extensive acid grassland*



*Figure 9: Oak Lane Cemetery*



*Figure 10: Orford House - orchard and neutral grassland*



*Figure 11: Hounslow Cemetery - extensive acid grassland*





Figure 12: Borough Cemetery



*Figure 13: Broom Road Recreation Ground*



*Figure 14: Challenge Court Open Space*



*Figure 15: Hampton Court School - area of acid grassland*



*Figure 16: Jubilee Meadow - extensive semi-improved neutral grassland*



*Figure 17: Nursery Green, Linear Walk and Partridge Green*



*Figure 18: Orleans Gardens*



*Figure 19: School House Lane Orchard*





*Figure 20: St Mary Magdalen RC Churchyard (Mortlake)*



*Figure 21: St Mary Magdalen Churchyard (Richmond)*



*Figure 22: St Mary The Virgin Churchyard (Twickenham)*



*Figure 23: Cambridge and Warren Gardens*



*Figure 24: Carlisle Park*



*Figure 25: Chertsey Road Meadow*



*Figure 26: Isleworth Promenade*



*Figure 28: Kneller Gardens*





*Figure 29: Palewell Pitch and Putt*



*Figure 31: Radnor Gardens*



*Figure 32: Riverside Drive Open Space*



Figure 33: Part of Sheen Common



*Figure 34: St Mary's Parish Church (Hampton) - Semi-improved neutral grassland*



*Figure 35: St Mary The Virgin (Mortlake)*



*Figure 36: St Mary's Church (Barnes) - veteran yew tree*



*Figure 37: Udney Hall Gardens*